

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: May 28, 2019
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chair George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Marj Wexler, Marcella Bush, Jen Brown, Lizzie Spaulding, Eileen Vining, Rolfe Tessem, Steve Schoenfeld, Adam and Peter Chait, Melody Lamb, Mary McGurn, Laura Allen.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

SCHEDULED ISSUES:

Jennifer Brown, Chair of the French Park Committee, introduced David Guidi and asked the Board to appoint David Guidi to the Committee. The Board vote unanimously to appoint David Guidi to the French Park Committee.

Jennifer reported that the French Park Committee has ordered new trail brochures and would like to add a third bench to the chapel area. Trail clean up will take place by Haupt Tree Company in the near future. The work will widen the trails for fire rescue, clean up the sides of the trails and remove invasive overgrowth. The funds for this work have been donated by Kayvan and Yasi Hakim who are donating \$5,000 each year for 5 years for trail work at the Park.

The French Park Committee would like to hold a movie night at the Park in later August. The Committee wants to begin a Facebook page with a link on the Town's Web page. The Board approved this. A drone will be used to take ariel photos of the park for the page. The Committee would like the Park to be deemed a smoke free zone.

There is a group interested in reviving the remote control Race Track that was near where the dog park. There was concern that this would agitate the dogs. More research needs to take place on this issue.

The French Park Fund has been given a donation to construct a Pickel Ball court in the Park. The Committee recommends that the court, which is basically a miniature Tennis Court, be put where one of the unused Volley Ball courts is. More research will be conducted on this.

The Committee asked the Board to revisit the water issue and at least put back hand washing facilities. The problem is that DEP has declared that with sinks the water supply is a public water supply and the well head, which is below ground level, will need to be raised at the least, and the water will need to be tested at some cost to the Town.

Chairman McGurn noted that the Committee should formulate an overall vision and plan with goals and priorities. The park is a beautiful asset to the Town and has been growing steadily over the years, thus attracting more activity. There have been issues with the use of the Pavilion for events. A sign noting when the Pavilion is reserved may be installed.

CITIZEN'S TIME:

The Board discussed an email request from Nick Keene to hold a monthly Night Market at the Egremont Village Inn. Though the Board would only have jurisdiction over signs and possibly some licensing of Peddlers. It would seem that at the least some sort of plan showing the number of vendors and where they will be should supplied. A special permit may be required. Mr. Keene will be informed of these thoughts.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Carla Turner as Inspector of Animals for livestock issues.

The Board accepted Bonnie Oloff's resignation from the Housing Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rolfe Tessem gave the Board a very clear and precise update on the negotiations with Fiber Connect. (See attached reports.) Fiber Connect will be bringing a detailed budget to the next negotiating session. The roads with underground utilities are costly and a decision will need to be made on how to proceed. Fiber Connect has agreed to submitting audited financial records and to obtain a performance bond as required by law. Provisions will be made in the agreement to protect the town in the event of Fiber Connect's failure. Fiber Connect has agreed to submit the necessary financials and other data to assure the Town will get the MBI funding. Fiber Connect will submit a schedule that is dependant on make-ready work for the build out. The Board needs to decide what standard to use for a subsidy to low-income subscribers. The Board thanked Rolfe and expressed it sincere appreciation for his and Jeff Lazarus's work. Fiber Connect has been given the MBI Action Plan to review as they are included as a signatory on the agreement.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

The ADA upgrades at the South Egremont School are progressing, the exterior work should be done by mid-June with all work done before July 1. The School has agreed to delay the exterior lead paint remediation until the ADA upgrades are done. The cost of both the fence and the playground is outrageous, but if the ADA upgrades come in within budget the funds are available to do both.

The Affordable Housing project remains on schedule for moving the homes in September. The driveway construction continues. The Housing Committee is supposed to be drafting homeowner associations rules in conjunction with Construct, Inc. A local resident, Craig Barnum, who has interests in work force housing in Berkshire County has made some creative suggestions and is interested in serving on the Housing Committee.

SELECTMEN'S ITEMS:

The Board will meet on the following dates: June 11 and 25, July 9 and 30, and August 20. If there is a need for other meetings, the Board will post them.

The Board set a date of June 11 at 7:30pm to hold a discussion with the members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as Legal Counsel and the Inspector of Buildings to discuss a jurisdiction question regarding special permits.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen asked what the town could do to get William Wood out of the Union in his position at the Transfer Station. Mr. Wood is in the Union because of his position is a part of the informal Department of Public Works that the Town has. He has been given the procedure to stop the deduction of dues though he will still have all benefits of the Union contract. His last verbal to several

Town Hall staff was that he was going to continue to pay dues. There is nothing further that can be, or should be done, by the Board.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen asked if the other Board members were aware that Bill Wood wanted to be appointed to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Board members are aware but Mr. Wood should put his request in writing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.